

factsheet

Acquisition of Trout Habitat in the Flathead River Basin

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the acquisition of lands in watersheds of the Flathead River Basin, Montana, to benefit trout species. BPA requests public comments on its proposal through June 2, 2006.

The protected lands would provide spawning, rearing, staging and migratory habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The proposed acquisitions are located in Flathead, Lake and Sanders counties within the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Lands to get management plan

The project is part of the ongoing fish enhancement program of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation. The tribes would acquire the lands or conservation easements on the lands and develop management plans to restore and permanently protect the trout habitat. The tribes will provide information about opportunities for public involvement in the development of the management plans for the properties in the future.

Pending BPA approval of management plans, no forest management, grazing or other land management activities would occur except maintenance and protection, such as weed control or fence maintenance.

Easement terms ensure protection

In return for its partnership funding, BPA would receive credit for meeting some of its obligation to mitigate environmental impacts of construction of Hungry Horse Dam and reservoir.

BPA would insure long-term protection of the land by holding a permanent conservation easement or retaining the right to enforce the conservation easements acquired by the tribes.



Comments welcome through June 2

We would appreciate your comments on this proposed land conservation project through June 2, 2006. Please reference "Hungry Horse Mitigation Acquisition – Flathead." Please note all comments will be posted in their entirety on BPA's external Web. Send comments to:

Bonneville Power Administration,
Public Affairs Office DKC-7,
P.O. Box 14428,
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

E-mail: comment@bpa.gov

Fax: (503) 230-3285.

Phone: (800) 622-4519.

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For more information

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Colleen Spiering at (503) 230-5756 or caspiering@bpa.gov.

You may also contact Lynn DuCharme of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes at (406) 883-2888, extension 7279, or lynnd@cskt.org.

